

Haberman, there are 370 schools, total, in the State of Nebraska and that 20,000 figure would assume 100 percent participation of all juniors in the State of Nebraska. So that 20,000 figure was, in fact, all of the juniors. Here is an interesting bit as far as illustrating how the more students enroll in this the more cost-effective it becomes. The pilot year, 1988, where we had 21 schools and 2,060 students, that figures out to \$5.65 per student. As we added the 68 schools and go to 6,500 students, that drops the cost to \$4.25 a student; and if we got everybody involved in this, it would go down to \$2.75 a student and we could serve every junior in the state. Each school is invited to participate. They don't need to apply to be a part of this program, they are invited to participate. The other comment that I wanted to make just in closing, I was glad Senator Hall mentioned his experience in meeting with teachers, because I think that is one of the things that really caught my eye when I met with teachers on this was the level of enthusiasm and the level of commitment. I'm sorry to say in this day and age that I don't think we treat teachers often in ways...I'm not talking anything about pay, I'm just talking about the way we treat them as professionals. I think sometimes the system they get caught up in and the deadlines they have to meet and the playground duties they have to do and all of that stuff really makes them feel less like a professional. The thing that excited me about this particular program was the professional commitment and enthusiasm and growth that I sensed going on among this group of teachers who were really, really excited about what they were doing and what they were going to be able to take back to their students. I think if any of you would have had a chance to meet and if you haven't had a chance to meet with that group, you should take that opportunity because it will really restore your faith in the quality of teachers we have out there and their commitment to their schools. Maybe Senator Schmit is right, maybe we should be looking at getting more kids into math courses. I don't know if you're talking elementary level, Senator Schmit, or where you are going to do this but I think this is a first step in the right direction. But I certainly would not argue with your point that, if there are other things that we can think of that will help students gain that ground earlier, I would certainly be receptive to those kinds of proposals. But I think 134 is a good step in the right direction. The experience in other states and our preliminary returns would indicate that it's going to be a step in the right direction in Nebraska. So I would appreciate your support on 134. Thank you.